

## **Program D: TOPS Tuition**

Program Authorization: R.S. 17:1961-1968

Program Authorization: Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Teacher Preparatory Loan Program - R.S. 17:3042.1, TOPS Opportunity Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Honors Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Performance Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS Technical Awards - Act 1375 of 1997 Regular Session, TOPS National Guard Book Fee - Act 165 of 1998.

### **Program Description**

The mission of the TOPS Tuition Program is to financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, technical education certificate, diploma, or a non-academic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of the program.

The goal of the TOPS Tuition Program is to provide funds which are sufficient to cover the costs required to be paid for the coming academic year.

The TOPS Tuition Program includes the following activities:

1. TOPS Teacher Award - provides educational loans made in the amount of \$4,000 and \$6,000, dependent upon field of study. The program provides loan forgiveness to encourage individuals to teach in Louisiana.
2. TOPS Opportunity Award - replaced Tuition Assistance Program for Students (TAPS) effective 7/1/98, provides tuition for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and must obtain not less than the state ACT average.
3. TOPS Honors Award – provides tuition plus \$800 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 27.
4. TOPS Performance Award - replaces the Honor Scholarship Program effective 7/1/98, provides tuition plus \$400 for not more than 4 years or 8 semesters. Eligibility requirements include a 3.5 GPA, 16.5 core units, and an ACT of 23.
5. TOPS Technical Award - provides tuition for not more than 2 years. Eligibility requirements include a 2.5 GPA, 16.5 core units and an ACT of not less than 19.
6. TOPS National Guard Book Fee - provides \$150 per semester for the actual costs of books in lieu of tuition exemptions provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard and who qualify for the Opportunity Award.

## RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACT 13 2002-2003	EXISTING 2002-2003	CONTINUATION 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$101,693,381	\$89,631,882	\$89,631,882	\$99,520,717	\$89,683,166	\$51,284
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	1,779,678	4,313,478	4,313,478	4,313,478	14,150,532	9,837,054
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	<b>\$103,473,059</b>	<b>\$93,945,360</b>	<b>\$93,945,360</b>	<b>\$103,834,195</b>	<b>\$103,833,698</b>	<b>\$9,888,338</b>
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Related Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Charges	103,473,059	93,945,360	93,945,360	103,834,195	103,833,698	9,888,338
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	<b>\$103,473,059</b>	<b>\$93,945,360</b>	<b>\$93,945,360</b>	<b>\$103,834,195</b>	<b>\$103,833,698</b>	<b>\$9,888,338</b>
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded with State General Fund and Statutory Dedications from the TOPS Fund (created in La. R.S. 39.98.1.D from tobacco settlement proceeds) and the Teacher Preparation Loan Fund (created in La. R.S. 17.3042.8 from a one-time State General Fund appropriation). (Per R.S. 39:36B. (8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each statutory dedication fund.).

	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACT 13</b>	<b>EXISTING</b>	<b>CONTINUATION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>
	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>OVER/(UNDER)</b>
						<b>EXISTING</b>
TOPS Fund	\$1,779,678	\$4,313,478	\$4,313,478	\$4,313,478	\$14,150,532	\$9,837,054

## MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$89,631,882	\$93,945,360	0	ACT 13 FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
\$89,631,882	\$93,945,360	0	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET - December 2, 2002
\$9,888,835	\$9,888,835	0	Workload Adjustment - TOPS
\$0	(\$497)	0	Other Adjustments - TOPS carryforward
(\$1,739,198)	\$0	0	Net Means Of Financing Substitutions - Interest earned on Tobacco Settlement
(\$8,098,353)	\$0	0	Net Means Of Financing Substitutions - Remaining balance from inflation proofing
\$89,683,166	\$103,833,698	0	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$8,098,353	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$97,781,519	\$103,833,698	0	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None
(\$8,098,353)	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$89,683,166	\$103,833,698	0	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

\$0 There are no professional services for this program for fiscal year 2003-2004

**\$0 TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

## **OTHER CHARGES**

\$103,833,698 Tuition Opportunity Program for Students - funding for student awards

**\$103,833,698 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES**

## **ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS**

\$0    There are no acquisitions or major repairs for this program for fiscal year 2003-2004

**\$0    TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS**